

# **DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

## **DISTRICT I**

January 6, 2003

7:00 p.m.

*Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19<sup>th</sup>, Wichita, Kansas 67214*

### **Members Present**

Council Member Brewer  
Treatha Brown Foster  
Lois Tully-Gerber  
Joann Hartig\*  
Kenneth Hemmen  
Lori Lawrence  
Sharon Meyers  
Celina Porter Robinson  
James Thompson  
Carrie Jones Williams

### **Members Absent**

Rickie Coleman  
Debby Moore  
Steve Roberts\*  
Willard Walker  
Ken Woodard

### **Guest List**

Edward Jones, 2621 Cameron  
Carl Ligon, 1736 NE Parkway  
Dorothy Nave, 1802 Looman  
James Smith, 2240 S. Crestway  
Kerin Smith, 2240 S. Crestway  
Mitzi Hall, Parents as Teachers

### **Staff Present**

Lt. Wanda Parker Givens, Patrol North Police Department  
Officer Jamie Cavitt, Patrol North Police Department  
Officer Judi Jones, Patrol North Police Department  
Kurt Schroeder, Office of Central Inspection (OCI)  
Wayne Bolen, Office of Central Inspection (OCI)  
Paul Gunzelman, Public Works  
Virgena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant

\*Denotes District Advisory Board Alternates

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **Call to Order**

**Council Member Brewer** called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve, DAB I minutes **Ken Hemmen (Tully-Gerber)**. Motion carried (9-0)

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Council Member Brewer** added Mitzi Hall, Parents as Teachers, to the Public Agenda and asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. **Tully-Gerber (Hemmen)** made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Mitzi Hall. Motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

## **Public Agenda**

### **1. Scheduled items**

**Council member Brewer** called for John Polson, citizen, who had requested to speak on several agenda items. Mr. Polson did not appear.

**The board dismissed this item for failure to appear.**

**Public Agenda** (continued)

**2. Off-agenda items**

Kerin Smith, United Methodist Health Clinic of Wichita, provided information on a new service, The Healthy Children's Center, located at 1233 South Emporia. Mrs. Smith announced that a new pediatrician was recently hired, Dr. Michael Mawdsley. She reported that the center accepts Healthwave and most other insurances and charges on a sliding fee scale. They offer service for patient's ages 0 to 18 years old and multi-lingual care is provided in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Mrs. Smith then handed out a press release and clinic information to the board.

*(Kerin Smith's response in italics)*

**Tully-Gerber** asked if the press release was submitted to the newspaper? *The information has been submitted for the neighborhood newsletter, but not the Wichita Eagle.* **Hemmen** inquired if the information had been mailed to the neighborhood associations? *The neighborhood associations in the area of the health center has received the information, but not all of the associations.* **Brown Foster** asked if there were any future plans to open other facilities in the city? *Not at this time. Due to budget cuts on all levels, we are trying to be fiscally responsible by providing the best service possible at already established locations.*

**The board received and filed the information.**

**2a. Mitzi Hall, Parents as Teachers (PAT)**

Mitzi Hall, gave a brief synopsis on the Parents As Teachers organization. Ms. Hall explained that this organization is in partnership with USD 259 and utilizes 15 trained parent educators who serve 1800 families throughout the USD 259 area. She stated that these families, regardless of social and economic status, receive services free of charge and their mission is early education intervention by servicing parents with children ages 0 to 5 years old.

Ms. Hall handed out literature and then showed the board a video, which explains in greater detail what Parents As Teachers is all about.

*(Mitzi Hall's response in italics)*

**Brown Foster** asked how would a new parent find out about their services? *There are several ways to find out about PAT: 1) word of mouth; 2) we plan to speak at all six DAB meetings; 3) the newspaper; 4) parenting events; 5) school district events, i.e., Choices Fair; and 6) community events such as the River Festival.*

**The board received and filed the information.**

### **Staff Reports**

#### **3. Community Police Report**

**Community Police Officers** for District I provided trend reports for their police beat.

Officer Cavitt, 22 Beat, reported an increase in auto larcenies in business districts. She is educating business owners on prevention measures. Cavitt also reported that they are using more visibility along Kellogg to detour speeders.

Officer Jones, 44 Beat, reported on the formation of a Business Watch in the 500 block of Hydraulic. This watch will address concerns in the industrial business area. Jones also reported on the huge success of the Christmas Crusade, which benefited families that otherwise would not have had food, toys, etc. for the Christmas holiday.

**Council Member Brewer** thanked the officers for an outstanding job.

**The board received and filed the information.**

#### **4. Office of Central Inspection (OCI)**

**Wayne Bolen, OCI**, presented a brief overview of proposed ordinance changes to Title 19 (The City of Wichita Electrical Code), which includes the adoption of the 2002 National Electrical Code.

Mr. Bolen explained that there are five recommended revisions to the code under Title 19 and that the main revision being opposed by the Wichita Area Builders Association is the required installation of the arc-fault circuit interrupter that would have to be installed in newly built homes. The association's opposition is the imposed cost associated with installing the arc-fault circuit interrupters. It is their belief that the added cost would prohibit the selling of new homes. Mr. Bolen commented that the BOEA disagreed and voted unanimously not to remove the requirement.

*(Wayne Bolen's response in italics)*

**Thompson** asked the following questions: 1) can the arc-fault interrupter be installed in an existing panel? *Yes, but there are exceptions. You could put in ground-fault interrupters, change the service, or subfeed another panel;* and 2) does this affect a loose connection as well? *Yes, it will pickup a problem and trip the circuit.* **Jones Williams** inquired if these revisions will affect only new homes? *Yes, the requirement is for newly built homes only.* Jones commented that she supports this idea, but thinks it is too bad that the same requirement does not extend to older homes. **Hartig** asked if the arc-fault interrupter could be purchased at a Home Improvement Center? *Yes, Lowe's, Home Depot, etc.* **Tully-Gerber** commented that when you read in the paper or hear about fires, it is usually explained as an electrical source, but you never hear about the actual source of the fire. She stated that the public is ill informed on these matters. **Council Member Brewer** inquired as to the actual cost of the arc-fault interrupters. *The arc-fault interrupters are \$25 and \$5 to \$10 for conventional circuit breakers. The total increase cost for the builders would be \$100 to \$150.*

**Carl Ligon, 1736 NE Parkway**, asked if homeowners can install these interrupters or is a license required? *Yes, homeowners can install these devices after passing a Homeowners exam*

**The board received and filed the information.**

## **Public Works**

### **5. Sidewalk Program – Capital Improvement Program**

**Paul Gunzelman, Public Works**, presented additional information regarding District I sidewalk construction along arterials. Mr. Gunzelman explained that he drove the area again and prepared a new list and marked his top five priorities. He then commented on his selection process, and entertained comments from the board.

*(Paul Gunzelman's response in italics)*

**Tully-Gerber** asked if we are covered on access for the residents on Timber? *We haven't found an easy way to build sidewalks in that area, as the graves are so close. We have spoken with WSU; however, they are not enthused with sidewalk installation due to the golf balls.* **Jones Williams** asked how the City prioritizes who gets sidewalks and who does not? Jones commented that it appears that District 1 has obtained minimal sidewalk installation over the years and that having sidewalks would give an entirely different look to neighborhoods. *The lack of sidewalk installation in certain areas has been noted and that is why Districts 1 and 5 are receiving 2002 and 2003 funding for sidewalks at this time.* **Brown Foster** asked the following questions: 1) has the area of 37<sup>th</sup> & Oliver to Hillside been surveyed? *Not sure if the City of Wichita owns the area near the 37<sup>th</sup> Street right of way. We own the south side of 37<sup>th</sup> Street, however, the other area is owned by the City of Bel Aire, who would be responsible for the installation of sidewalks in their area;* and 2) 21<sup>st</sup> Street on the south side has a vacant field and there is no sidewalks for the residents of the NE Senior Center to access the bank. Will you add that area to your list? **Council Member Brewer** asked if the incoming commercial development would be responsible for that? *I will inquire about both property areas and report back to the board.*

The board inquired about several other areas: 1) Central to 21<sup>st</sup> Street; 2) Kellogg to 21<sup>st</sup> Street; 3) Grove to Hillside; 4) Elm Street – Grove to Hillside; and 5) 25<sup>th</sup> Street – Ash to Hillside. Then, there was a brief discussion as to the property owner's responsibility to repair sidewalks and what properties the City of Wichita would be responsible to fix.

Paul Gunzelman commented that he would like to begin installation on the first two recommendations on the list, if the board had no objections. He explained that he would issue a letter to residents to attend the February meeting.

**The board recommended that Public Works proceed with #1 (25<sup>th</sup> – Ash to Hillside) and #2 (Lincoln – St. Francis to Mosley) for sidewalk installation. The board voted unanimously (9-0).**

## **Unfinished Business**

No items submitted

## **Planning**

No items submitted

## **New Business**

No items submitted

### **Board Agenda**

**Jones Williams** requested to speak on the Weed and Seed item that was left for future discussion at the December 2, 2002 DAB I meeting.

**The board voted unanimously, 9-0, to allow the explanation of the Weed and Seed Program.**

**Jones Williams** referenced the following questions. Her response is in italics.

- Since the SRO's in are the schools, what part of truancy will be addressed?  
*Community Police Officers make themselves widely noticed in the community by getting to know the residents. SRO's do not always know where these kids are; they just know they are missing. CP Officers are in the community and see these kids walking the streets and identify them as truants. They are also working to find places for kids to go who have been kicked out of school for an extensive period of time, who hang out and get into trouble, because they have no particular place to be. CP Officers are working with ACTS on Truancy on this issue.*
- How will you concentrate on domestic violence?  
*CP Officers will keep a close look out on repeat offenders of Domestic Violence cases and make a real effort to reach out to the victim and the abuser. They will do this by providing education to the victim and the abuser and hopefully will be successful in their attempt to reduce the incidents.*

**Brown Foster** commented that the problem and concern is that these offenders are not locked up until someone is badly beaten or killed.

*We are looking at being more proactive. Weed & Seed is in its 7<sup>th</sup> year with members from all walks of life ~ neighborhood associations, Chief of Police, Sheriff, Housing, DBI, domestic violence programs, recreation programs, etc. There is a distinct coalition of team members that share resources across the board.*

- Since drivebys are low and burglaries are up, how will Weed and Seed help in this area?  
*Weed & Seed identifies concerns. At the time, there was an increase in driveby shootings. The Criminal Justice Department puts in monies for identified needs. Had it been burglaries, we would have concentrated on burglaries.*

*The status of being designated as a Weed and Seed site is much more important than Wichita recognizes. It is like being recognized as an All America City without the fanfare. Funds are given to many organizations because of this recognition; however, many people do not realize this.*

**Tully-Gerber** asked if written information could be provided at the next DAB meeting that would include defined boundaries of the program? *Yes, I will provide that information to the board so that we have a better understanding of what is actually happening in our community.*

**The board received and filed the information.**

**General Comments/Announcements**

**Council Member Brewer** reported on the National League of Cities (NLC) Conference that he attended in Salt Lake City, Utah. He commented that every city is looking at the lack of funding from the state. Also, that in Kansas, it appears that cities closer to Topeka seem to be receiving more funds from the state, which is being questioned as to the reasoning behind this.

- District I Coalition Meeting will be February 1, 2003, Spears Restaurant, 8:00 a.m.
- Next meeting of DAB I will be February 3, 2003.
- **Lawrence** announced Plastic Recycling, January 18, 2003, 7:00 a.m. – Noon @ 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Plastics, 3434 West Harry.
- **Brown Foster** announced the Martin Luther King Celebration kick off with the Battle of the Bands, Friday, January 17, 2003, Cessna Stadium, 7:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchase at Music & More, Dillon's, and Rosalines.

Being no further business, **Brown Foster (Lawrence)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Virdena Gilkey  
Neighborhood Assistant